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MEDIA ADVISORY

Roundtable titled "Government Procurements in the Kyrgyz Republic: Problems and Perspectives of Improving the system" will be held on **July 28, 2008 at 09:00** in the **Hyatt Hotel**.

Kyrgyzstan is on the Way to a New Cycle of Negotiations on WTO Government Procurement

USAID Regional Trade Liberalization and Customs Project assists Kyrgyzstan in holding negotiations on accession to WTO Government Procurement (GPA)

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan – Kyrgyzstan has had an obligation to begin negotiations with WTO member-states on accession to WTO GPA for ten years, but this process is still on its initial stage.

The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Kyrgyz Republic and the State Agency on Government Procurement and Material Resources of the Kyrgyz Republic, with the support of the USAID Regional Trade Liberalization and Customs Project, will hold the roundtable where the representatives of the *Government of the KR*, deputies of the *Jogorku Kenesh* (local municipality), representatives of ministries, agencies and *suppliers of goods and services* will discuss current issues in government procurement. During the roundtable they will provide suggestions to improve the system, and will also discuss proposals for making amendments to *the government procurement legislation of the KR*.

Mr. Sahaydachny, an international expert on procurement will take part in the Round Table. He will present principles of the Government Procurement Agreement, and discuss the participation of developing and transition economy states and the harmonization of national and international rules and procedures. Discussions will also cover the issue of potential benefits from GPA membership and measures to reduce possible costs.

Representatives of the State Agency on Government Procurement and Material Resources and suppliers of goods and services will take part in a two-day seminar in Kashka-Suu village after the roundtable. This seminar is aimed at improving the understanding of the GPA requirements among the participants.

For editors: 13 states are current members of the WTO Government Procurement Agreement, if the European Union is considered as one state. 19 states are observers, 8 of them, including Kyrgyzstan, are in the process of negotiations on accession.

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The RTLC project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) since 2007. The project aims to support economic development of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan through trade, transit, and customs reform. For more information on other USAID-funded projects in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia, please visit <http://centralasia.usaid.gov>.